New Claims

18. An antibody comprising a monoclonal antibody having an affinity of $> 10^8$ M^{-1} against the epitope YPYDVPDYA, (SEQ ID NO: 1).

19. An antibody comprising a monoclonal antibody having an affinity of 10^9 - 10^{10} M^{-1} against the epitope YPYDVPDYA, (SEQ ID NO: 1).

20. The monoclonal antibody of claim 18 or claim 19, wherein said antibody is produced by hybridomas which are obtained by fusing mouse P3x63-Ag8.653 myeloma cells with B lymphocytes from Lou/C rats, said Lou/C rats having been immunized with a haemagglutinin peptide.

21. The monoclonal antibody of claim 18 or claim 19, wherein said antibody is produced by hybridomas which are obtained by fusing mouse P3x63-Ag8.653 myeloma cells with B lymphocytes from Lou/C rats, said Lou/C rats having been immunized with a haemagglutinin peptide, wherein said immunization is carried out with a haemagglutinin peptide coupled to keyhole limpet haemocyanin.

22. The monoclonal antibody of claim 18 or claim 19, wherein said antibody is produced by hybridoma R 3A12 deposited at the "Deutsche Sammlung für Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen" under the No. DSM ACC2286 (08.10.1996).

23. A method for the production of a monoclonal antibody against the epitope YPYDVPDYA (SEQ ID NO: 1) comprising:
(a) synthesizing a haemagglutinin peptide,
(b) immunizing a small mammal with said peptide,
(c) isolating B lymphocytes from the spleen of said mammal and fusing said

lymphocytes with mouse P3x63-Ag8.653 myeloma cells to form clones,
(d) selecting clones formed in step (c) which bind to a haemagglutinin peptide and to a haemagglutinin fusion protein, and
(e) selecting a clone with a high affinity from those selected in step (d) and establishing said clone as a hybrid cell line.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said haemagglutinin peptide is selected from the group consisting of acetyl-YPYDVPDYAGSGSK (ε-biotinoyl) amide (a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 2) and biotinoyl-ε-Aca-SGSGYPYDVPDYA amide (a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 3).

25. The method of claim 23, wherein said haemagglutinin fusion protein is haemagglutinin-tagged glutathione-S-transferase.